

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T STATE 068706

NODIS
CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS"1

TAGS:PERP, UR

SUBJECT: NON-PAPER TO DOBRYNIN ON ISRAELI NUCLEAR CAPABILITY

DURING MARCH 16 LUNCHEON MEETING WITH DOBRYNIN
THE SECRETARY HANDED OVER FOLLOWING NON-PAPER ON
ISRAELI NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. BEGIN TEXT:

THE UNITED STATES SHARES THE SOVIET UNION'S CONCERN OVER
THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ESPECIALLY TO COUNTRIES
IN VOLATILE AREAS OF THE WORLD SUCH AS THE MIDDLE EAST.
WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF PERIODIC PRESS REPORTS CLAIMING THAT
ISRAEL HAS NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WE HAVE RAISED THIS QUESTION
WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS DENIED THAT IT
POSSESSES SUCH WEAPONS. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO
GIVEN US ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL NOT BE THE FIRST TO

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INTRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE ACCEPT
THESE ASSURANCES.

THE UNITED STATES IS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THE SPREAD OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AS ELSEWHERE, AND
BELIEVES THAT ALL STATES IN THE REGION SHOULD BECOME
PARTIES TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY. IN THIS

REGARD, WE HAVE URGED THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL TO BECOME
A SIGNATORY TO THE AGREEMENT. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT

THE QUESTION OF ISRAELI ACCESSION TO THE TREATY CAN BEST
BE ADDRESSED IN THE CONTEXT OF SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD
A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE
WELCOME THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY THE SOVIET UNION
AND HOPE THAT IT WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE TO ENCOURAGE OTHER
STATES IN THE REGION, SUCH AS ALGERIA AND THE PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN, TO ALSO BECOME PARTIES TO
THE TREATY. END TEXT. VANCE

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